

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-3. (cancelled).

4. (currently amended) A method of positioning a medical apparatus within a patient, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing the medical apparatus comprising an accessing tool, and a probe operatively connected with the accessing tool and located at the distal end of the accessing tool, wherein the probe comprises at least one pressure transducer;
- (b) inserting at least a portion of the accessing tool into the patient;
- (c) manipulating the accessing tool until the distal end of the accessing tool is adjacent a body site;
- (d) contacting the body site with the probe in a first position, thereby generating a first information signal from the at least one pressure transducer, wherein the first signal conveys the direction of a force applied by the body site on the probe; and
- (e) altering the position of the probe based at least in part on the first signal to a second position, thereby generating a second information signal.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the second position is a desired position of the probe in relation to the body site.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of altering the positioning of the probe based at least in part on the second signal to a third position, thereby generating a third information signal.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the information from at least the first signal conveys the incident angle of the probe relative to a surface of the body site.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the first signal conveys the magnitude of a force applied by the body site on the probe.

9. (cancelled).

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the apparatus further comprises a monitoring device, and wherein the first signal is displayed via the monitoring device.
11. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the probe further comprises at least one effector configured to provide a therapeutic effect.
12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the probe further comprises an activator, and wherein the activator is associated with the effector such that the activation of the activator causes the effector to provide a therapeutic effect.
13. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the effector is configured to provide a therapeutic effect upon the reaching of a threshold force measured by the at least one pressure transducer.
14. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the accessing tool is inserted in step (b) using a catheter.
15. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the manipulation of the accessing tool in step (c) is aided by the use of x-ray fluoroscopy.
16. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the probe further comprises a support member, and wherein at least one pressure transducer is situated on the support member.
17. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the accessing tool further comprises a shaft located near the distal end of the accessing tool, and wherein the shaft is movable relative to the accessing tool.
18. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said pressure transducer includes (i) first and second conductors, (ii) an insulating layer adjacent the first conductor, said layer having one or more perforations therein, and (iii) a conductive elastomer disposed between the insulating layer and the second conductor and in contact with the second conductor, and the insulating layer and the conductive elastomer each (i) is mounted about the shaft, and (ii) at least partially surrounds the shaft.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the insulating layer and the conductive elastomer each has an opening therein for receiving the shaft, and the shaft is inserted through the openings in the insulating layer and the conductive elastomer.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the insulating layer is generally in the shape of a disk; and the opening in the insulating layer is disposed at or proximate the diametrical center of the insulating layer.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the conductive elastomer has a generally circular configuration; and the opening in the conductive elastomer is disposed at or proximate the diametrical center of the conductive elastomer.

22. (new) A method of positioning a medical apparatus within a patient, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing the medical apparatus comprising an accessing tool, and a probe operatively connected with the accessing tool and located at the distal end of the accessing tool, wherein the probe comprises at least one pressure transducer, and at least one effector configured to provide a therapeutic effect upon the reaching of a threshold force measured by the at least one pressure transducer;

(b) inserting at least a portion of the accessing tool into the patient;

(c) manipulating the accessing tool until the distal end of the accessing tool is adjacent a body site;

(d) contacting the body site with the probe in a first position, thereby generating a first information signal from the at least one pressure transducer; and

(e) altering the position of the probe based at least in part on the first signal to a second position, thereby generating a second information signal.

23. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein the information from at least the first signal conveys the incident angle of the probe relative to a surface of the body site.

24. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein the first signal conveys the magnitude of a force applied by the body site on the probe.

25. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein the apparatus further comprises a monitoring device, and wherein the first signal is displayed via the monitoring device.

26. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein the probe further comprises a support member, and wherein at least one pressure transducer is situated on the support member.

27. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein the probe further comprises an activator, and wherein the activator is associated with the effector such that the activation of the activator causes the effector to provide a therapeutic effect

28. (new) A method of positioning a medical apparatus within a patient, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing the medical apparatus comprising an accessing tool comprising a shaft located near the distal end of the accessing tool and wherein the shaft is movable relative to the accessing tool, and a probe operatively connected with the accessing tool and located at the distal end of the accessing tool, wherein the probe comprises at least one pressure transducer, and wherein said pressure transducer includes (i) first and second conductors, (ii) an insulating layer adjacent the first conductor, said layer having one or more perforations therein, and (iii) a conductive elastomer disposed between the insulating layer and the second conductor and in contact with the second conductor; and the insulating layer and the conductive elastomer each (i) is mounted about the shaft, and (ii) at least partially surrounds the shaft;

(b) inserting at least a portion of the accessing tool into the patient;

(c) manipulating the accessing tool until the distal end of the accessing tool is adjacent a body site;

(d) contacting the body site with the probe in a first position, thereby generating a first information signal from the at least one pressure transducer; and

(e) altering the position of the probe based at least in part on the first signal to a second position, thereby generating a second information signal.

29. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein the insulating layer and the conductive elastomer each has an opening therein for receiving the shaft; and the shaft is inserted through the openings in the insulating layer and the conductive elastomer.

30. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein the insulating layer is generally in the shape of a disk; and the opening in the insulating layer is disposed at or proximate the diametrical center of the insulating layer.

31. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein the conductive elastomer has a generally circular configuration; and the opening in the conductive elastomer is disposed at or proximate the diametrical center of the conductive elastomer.